3:Royal Institute of International Affairs U-4 (no date)1954 M1 Middle East
LEBANON MEI
SYRIA MDI

of clinics and in the cities a shortage of qualified staff to undertake massage, radiotherapy, and orthopædics, and there is special need to combat tuberculosis. Syrians and Lebanese are not addicted to hashish which, however, is grown in the Biqaa and smuggled to Egypt. The Lebanese Government periodically burns many of the plantations, which inflates the price of the surviving crop.

Economic Survey

More than half the population of the two countries is engaged in agriculture which is the most important economic activity. Natural resources hardly exist; there is bitumen in Jebel Bishri in Syria but its production would not be economic; about 10,000 tons a year of asphalt is produced from the neighbourhood of Latakia; and salt is extracted in commercial quantities near Aleppo.

Petroleum

For a number of years, associates of IPC searched for oil in Syria and Lebanon but without finding it in commercial quantities; in consequence, the areas held by these IPC associates have been given up. However, the two Governments are still anxious for further efforts to be made to find oil in commercial quantities. The importance of petroleum in the economy of Syria and Lebanon lies in the situation of the two republics athwart the pipelines from the fields of northern Iraq and Saudi Arabia which have outlets on the Mediterranean.[1] From Iraq a 12-inch and 16-inch line carry oil across Syria by way of Palmyra and Homs to Tripoli in the Lebanon. Together, these two lines can carry about 8 million tons of oil a year (160,000 barrels daily). A third IPC line from Kirkuk to Homs then bears north of the other two and reaches the sea at Banias, and so does not run through Lebanon at all. This new line is 26–30–32-inches in diameter and can deliver oil at about 16 million tons a year (320,000 barrels daily). From the fields of Saudi Arabia a 30–31 inch American pipeline (Tapline) travels over 1,000 miles on its way to Sidon in Lebanon, passing through Jordan and Syria. At present the line is pumping at a rate of about 15 million tons a year (300,000 barrels daily). It should be noted that these four lines all carry crude oil, some of which is refined on the Mediterranean shore for local requirements but the bulk is shipped as crude to the refineries of Europe and elsewhere.

The line from Kirkuk to Haifa is not operating and the Haiaf

[1] See Appendix IV, p. 570 below.